TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office

May 19, 1999 LB 637A, 637

computerization program, but it's how locals have responded to having to do this. Not all have done so enthusiastically and so it's been stretched out some too. And so...but I think it's going to be short-sighted. I just want you to be...be short-sighted taking the General Funds money out now if you really...if we really are to move forward on child support.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Jensen, on the Baker amendment.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I think at this particular time if we start shortchanging this situation, it will have an impact on the federal funds, without any doubt. You know, our computerization that we've gone through has been a struggle and I think any of you who have dealt with computers in your own business or in your own life certainly realize that we have made some mistakes, you've made some mistakes along the way. I will say this; the new administration is committed strongly to making this work and they have set aside time and effort to...and commitment to do We are, through N-FOCUS, I think now finally up and running. We're getting the kind of information we need. getting the support that we need. And also a lot of the problems were...come all the way back from even the people on the front line in getting familiar with a system. So I think we've got a lot of the problems behind us. For us now to make a cut in...particularly to endanger the federal dollars, I think, would be a mistake. Those are matching dollars and without ours, theirs will not be there. And the risk is just too great. I think at this particular time we need to move on to fund (LB) 637 and to get this system on-line, bring the entire state on line. It isn't...matter of fact, July 1 we finally move from the old system into...bring that into also the system, and so that won't be there. So, for the first time, we'll have, I think, a unified system and I think we'll also derive some benefits for that. So I would urge that we do move along with the A bill on (LB) 637, fund this, get the federal dollars, get going on this project. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Jensen. Senator Baker.

SENATOR BAKER: Yes, thank you, Mr. President, members. I'm